

C. Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1-13 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A tread (1, 101) for a pneumatic tire, defined laterally by lateral faces (4, 104 and 5, 105) connecting radially inner and outer faces (2, 102 and 3, 103) together, said tread (1, 101) being comprised of an electrically insulating material, ~~characterized in that said tread has~~ having at least one conductive layer (10, 110) arranged to substantially connect said lateral faces (4, 104 and 5, 105) together, said conductive layer (10, 110) having a resistivity ~~less~~ lower than that of said insulating material, ~~which is~~ wherein said insulating material is radially provided radially on both sides (11, 111 and 12, 112) of said conductive layer, and wherein said conductive layer extends circumferentially through (10, 110) in said tread (1, 101).

2. (currently amended) The tread (1) according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said at least one conductive layer has edges and wherein the edges are provided at a distance from at least one of said lateral faces to provide at least one interruption in the conductive layer (10) substantially connects said lateral faces (4 and 5) together, such that it is interrupted opposite at least one of said lateral faces.

3. (currently amended) The tread (1) according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said at least one conductive layer has a plurality of interruptions

formed by circumferential grooves (10) ~~substantially connects said lateral faces (4 and 5), so such that it is interrupted opposite said radially inner and outer faces (2 and 3).~~

4. (currently amended) The tread (1, 101) according to Claim 1, ~~or 2 or 3~~, wherein characterized in that said at least one conductive layer (10, 110) is substantially parallel to said outer face (3, 103).

5. (currently amended) The tread (1, 101) according to Claim 1, ~~or 2 or 3~~, wherein the tread characterized in that it comprises a single conductive layer (10, 110) provided at a distance from one or the other of said inner and outer faces (2, 102 and 3, 103) which is greater than or equal to one-quarter the thickness of said tread (1, 101).

6. (currently amended) The tread (1, 101) according to Claim 5, wherein characterized in that said distance is equal to half the thickness of said tread (1, 101).

7. (currently amended) The tread (1, 101) according to Claim 1, ~~or 2 or 3~~, wherein characterized in that the resistivity of said conductive layer (10, 110) is less than or equal to $10^8 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$, the resistivity of the said insulating material being greater than or equal to $10^8 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$.

8. (currently amended) The tread (1, 101) according to Claim 1, ~~or 2 or 3~~, wherein characterized in that it further comprising ~~comprises~~ at least one conductive strip

or film (114, 114', 114a, 114b), which is provided to connect the said inner and outer faces (102, 103) together electrically.

9. (currently amended) The tread (101) according to Claim 8, wherein the tread ~~characterized in that it~~ comprises two conductive strips or films (114) which are respectively provided at the locations of said lateral faces (104 and 105).

10. (currently amended) The tread (101) according to Claim 9, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said strips or films (114) are extended respectively on said outer face (103) by two electrically conductive circumferential peripheral bands (115).

11. (currently amended) The tread (101) according to Claim 8, further comprising ~~characterized in that it comprises, between said lateral faces (104 and 105),~~ at least one electrically conductive film (114') which connects said inner and outer faces (102 and 103) together, wherein said at least one electrically conductive film is provided between said lateral faces.

12. (currently amended) The tread (101) according to Claim 8, further comprising ~~characterized in that it comprises, firstly,~~ at least one inner conductive strip (114a) connecting said at least one conductive layer (110) to said radially inner face (102)

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and, at least one external conductive strip (~~114b~~) connecting said at least one conductive layer (~~110~~) to said radially outer face (~~103~~).

13. (currently amended) A tire, comprising ~~characterized in that it contains a~~
tread (~~1, 101~~) according to Claim 1, ~~or~~ 2 or 3.